

House Study Bill 555 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to professional development services for
2 elementary teachers to improve students' literacy skills.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 279.68, subsection 4, Code 2014, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. c. The department of education shall
4 collaborate with the area education agencies and the Iowa
5 reading research center established pursuant to section 256.9,
6 subsection 53, to develop and offer to school districts, at no
7 cost, professional development services to enhance the skills
8 of elementary teachers in the use of evidence-based strategies
9 to improve the literacy skills of all students. From any
10 moneys appropriated to the department of education for purposes
11 of paragraph "b", the department may use a reasonable amount
12 to cover the administrative costs of developing and deploying
13 these professional development services.

14 EXPLANATION

15 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
16 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

17 This bill directs the department of education to collaborate
18 with the area education agencies and the Iowa reading research
19 center, which the director of the department was required to
20 establish in legislation enacted in 2012, to develop and offer
21 to school districts, at no cost, professional development
22 services to enhance the skills of elementary teachers in the
23 use of evidence-based strategies to improve the literacy skills
24 of all students. The bill permits the department to use,
25 from any moneys appropriated to the department and allocated
26 to school districts to provide professional development
27 services to enhance the skills of elementary teachers to
28 respond to children's reading needs, a reasonable amount to
29 cover the administrative costs of developing and deploying the
30 professional development services.